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SOCIAL, HUMANITARIAN AND HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: REPORTS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES, CONFERENCES AND RELATED QUESTIONS: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT QUESTIONS

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Mr. Enrique Tejera-París (Venezuela), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution E/1995/L.44

Social development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, 1/ in particular commitment 10, and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, 2/ in particular chapter V on implementation and follow-up, in which, inter alia, the Economic and Social Council was invited to review, at its substantive session of 1995, the mandate, agenda and composition of the Commission for Social Development, including consideration of the strengthening of the Commission, taking into account the need for synergy with other related commissions and conference follow-up,

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1/ Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995 (A/CONF.166/9), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

2/ Ibid., annex II.

Taking note of the report of the Commission for Social Development on its thirty-fourth session, 3/ at which the World Summit for Social Development was the priority subject,

Taking into account Commission resolutions 34/4 and 34/5 of 20 April 1995, including the annexes thereto, concerning the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development, in particular the recommendation that the Commission should have a central role in the follow-up to the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, 4/

Reaffirming that the Economic and Social Council should oversee system-wide coordination in the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and make recommendations in this regard,

Reiterating that the Commission for Social Development will assist the Council in the intergovernmental review of the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action so as to ensure an integrated approach to social development,

Bearing in mind the coordinated follow-up to major United Nations conferences and the overall responsibilities of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council,

Considering that all relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system should be involved in the follow-up to the Summit, in accordance with their mandates,

1. Takes note of the note by the Secretariat; 5/

2. Decides that the Commission for Social Development, as a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council, in promoting the integrated treatment of social development issues in the United Nations system, should review, on a periodic basis, issues related to the follow-up and implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, in a manner consistent with the functions and contributions of other relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and that, to this end, the Commission should:

(a) Improve international understanding of social development, including through exchanges of information and experiences, and through discussions on emerging issues;

(b) Make recommendations regarding social development to the Economic and Social Council;

3/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 4 (E/1995/24).

4/ Ibid., chap. I, sect. E.

5/ E/1995/102.

(c) Elaborate practical measures aimed at furthering the recommendation of the World Summit for Social Development;

3. Decides also that the Commission for Social Development should:

(a) Adapt its mandate so as to ensure an integrated approach to social development, taking into account the relationship between social and economic development as defined in the recommendations of the World Summit for Social Development; it should, inter alia, contribute to the identification of practical measures;

(b) Develop a multi-year programme of work to the year 2000, selecting specific themes and addressing them from an interrelated and integrated perspective;

(c) Establish the practice of opening its debates to experts and the main actors of civil society so as to enhance the exchange of information and experience, knowledge and understanding of social development;

(d) Review and update its methods of work;

(e) Review the reporting practices to and by the Commission in order to enhance the multi-year programme of work;

4. Decides that the Commission for Social Development should hold a special session in 1996 in order, inter alia:

(a) To review its mandate, terms of reference and scope of work;

(b) To elaborate its multi-year programme of work;

(c) To review the frequency of its meetings in the light of the above and make recommendations thereon to the Council;

5. Also decides, in the light of those recommendations and on the basis of the scope of work of the Commission, to consider in 1996 the composition of the membership of the Commission and the frequency of its sessions;

6. Further decides that the substantive theme to be considered during the special session of the Commission in 1996 should be determined at the resumed substantive session of 1995 of the Council;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to make the appropriate arrangements for the special session of the Commission in 1996;

8. Reiterates that the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action will require the mobilization of financial resources at the national and international levels, as set out in paragraphs 87 to 92 of the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development;

9. Requests the General Assembly, at its fiftieth session, to give special consideration to the implications, including financial aspects, of the

follow-up and the implementation by the United Nations system of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action and to adopt decisions thereon.